

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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PC-01 SP-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9987

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9288

LUSAKA FOR AMBASSADOR HINTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SGEN

SUBJECT: FY 1976 PEACE CORPS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 236947

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, INITIAL PC ZAIRE STAFF ARRIVED LATE 1970 AND FIRST PCV ARRIVED EARLY 1971. ONLY DURING LAST TWO YEARS HAS PC ZAIRE ESTABLISHED REPUTATION FOR SERIOUSNESS. IT IS NOW ACCEPTED AS WELCOME U.S. PRESENCE AT GRASS ROOTS LEVEL AND AS RECOGNIZED BENEFIT TO ZAIRE BY GOZ. NOW BELIEVED TO BE THIRD LARGEST PROGRAM (234 VS PLUS 8/TRAINEES) IN AFRICA.

2. DURING LAST TWO YEARS GOZ CONTRIBUTIONS TO PC PROGRAM HAVE INCREASED MARKEDLY. GLOBAL FIGURE FY 74 APPROX \$842,000. CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDE \$120,000 ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT PCVS ASSIGNED TO OFFICE DES ROUTES PROGRAMS, TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS PER MONTH ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT EACH VOLUNTEER IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM, RENT FREE YEAR-ROUND USE OF BUKAVU TRAINING FACILITY WHOSE RENTAL VALUE IS ESTIMATED AT \$150,000, TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS PER MONTH ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT EACH AGRICULTURAL VOLUNTEER, ETC. GOZ SUPPORT IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FOR MOST PART LODGING, FURNISHING, AND TRANSPORT.

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3. OUR OWN CALCULATIONS BASED ON MOST RECENT FIGURES WE HAVE

INDICATE THAT 1974 PER CAPITA INCOME OF ZAIRE IS ABOUT \$89 IN CONSTANT 1970 PRICES. WE BELIEVE THIS FACT SHOULD BE GIVEN DUE WEIGHT IN DECIDING WHERE TO SEEK FURTHER HOST COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. FOLLOWING RESPONSES KEYED TO SUBPARAS OF PARA 5 REFTEL. CONCERNING A FORMAL REQUEST TO SHARE THE COSTS OF THE PC PROGRAM.

(A) PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S REACTION WOULD PROBABLY BE ONE OF INDIGNATION. HE WOULD VIEW OUR REQUEST AS UNILATERAL CHANGE IN OUR AGREEMENT REGARDING PCZ. THE POLITICAL EFFECT WOULD BE DECIDEDLY NEGATIVE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE ARE VOLUNTEERS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES IN ZAIRE WHO RECEIVE NO SUPPORT WHATEVER FROM GOZ. AS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS, SEE PARA (B) BELOW.

(B) GOZ WOULD PROBABLY NOT REFUSE TO CONTRIBUTE. THERE ARE CERTAIN KINDS OF PCVS IT NEEDS VERY MUCH, AND IT WOULD PERHAPS CONSENT TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO KEEP THEM. THESE ARE VOLUNTEERS HAVING PROVEN TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, PARTICULARLY IN EDUCATION FIELD, AND WHO UNDERTAKE TO SERVE FOR TWO YEARS. INSTEAD OF MAKING FURTHER CONTRIBUTION, GOZ MIGHT COUNTER, HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY, WITH SUGGESTION THAT PCZ PROGRAM BE REDUCED INSTEAD, WHILE RESPECTING GOZ PRIORITIES.

(C) UNILATERAL TERMINATION OF PCZ UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED WOULD BE CONSIDERED HERE AS SLAP IN FACE AND WOULD HARM OUR RELATIVELY FAVORABLE POSITION IN THIS POLITICALLY IMPORTANT COUNTRY WHERE THERE IS GREAT POTENTIAL WEALTH.

(D) USAID PROGRAMS HERE WOULD NOT BE GREATLY AFFECTED.

(E) PHASING DOWN SOMEWHAT WOULD DEFINITELY BE PREFERABLE TO INSISTING UPON FURTHER GOZ CONTRIBUTION.

3. OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS FOLLOW:

(A) KNOWLEDGE THAT ZAIRIAN MAN IN THE STREET AND VILLAGES OBTAINS ABOUT U.S. COMES IN LARGE MEASURE FROM VOLUNTEERS. MOST ESPECIALLY STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT ZAIRE OBTAIN FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. AND AMERICANS THROUGH VOLUNTEER TEACHERS. THIS TRUE AT UNIV. LEVEL AS WELL. WE CONSIDER THIS AN INVALUABLE ASSET FOR THE FUTURE. A DIMINUTION OF THE PROGRAM CAN ONLY LESSEN OUR INFLUENCE ON FUTURE LEADERS.

(B) EARNED REPUTATION OF PEACE CORPS FOR DISINTERESTED HELP TO
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UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD BE DIMINISHED BY THREATENING DEMARCHE, AND PC WOULD INSTEAD BE REGARDED AS RECRUITMENT AGENCY FOR PAID EXPATRIATE STAFF.

(C) LEVEL OF TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OF EACH VOLUNTEER WOULD BE A DECISIVE FACTOR AS WOULD BE A GUARANTEED TWO YEAR COMMITMENT IF ZAIRE WERE TO BE ASKED TO SHARE PC COSTS. SO FAR PC HAS NOT SHOWN THAT IT CAN PRODUCE ACROSS THE BOARD HIGH LEVEL TECHNICIANS AT WILL. NEITHER CAN PC GUARANTEE TWO YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE PART

OF EACH PCV.

(D) ELIMINATION OR DIMINUTION OF PC PROGRAMS WILL INEVITABLY MEAN LOST OPPORTUNITIES TO U.S. YOUTHS TO LEARN ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES AND CULTURES. ON RETURN TO U.S. THESE VOLUNTEERS ARE LEAVENING INFLUENCE ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING BY U.S. CITIZENRY OF WORLD AROUND US.

(E) IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT ACTION CANNOT PRESENT OMB FULL BUDGET NECESSARY FOR NEW COMMITMENTS. TRUST DEPARTMENT WILL SUPPORT PEACE CORPS AS BEING BENEFICIAL TO U.S. INTERESTS IN ZAIRE AND ELSEWHERE.

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